The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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"Law begins, continues and ends in common sense.—Judge Parsons.

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LABOR INJUNCTION FOES MUST FACE FACTS

The historic purpose of the injunction is to protect property where the plaintiff has no other remedy at law. This process was never intended to interfere with human relations or with the functions of government.

By the simple trick of reviving the serf ideal —that labor is property—workers have silently been swept under the injunction writ.

If labor is property the labor injunction is correct.

If labor is not property, the labor injunction is judicial usurpation.

Under the first supposition it is idle to plead with injunction judges. It is a waste of time to attempt to weaken their blows against personal liberty and government by law.

Power begets power; repression feeds on repression.

To attempt to regulate the injunction judge is to acknowledge his usurpation. To endeavor to defeat him with rules he himself has made is folly.

The injunction judge should be fought along fundamental lines. Congress creates inferior federal courts and Congress can define the jurisdiction of these courts. The United States Constitution says so. This has been affirmed by the Supreme Court.

Congress should notify these courts that their strike-time writs are illegal and that the original purpose of the injunction—protection of property only—should be re-established.

Labor power is the life of the human being and is not transferable.

The product of labor power is property, or wealth. It is transferable, and under certain conditions, is subject to equity jurisdiction.

The labor injunction rests on the confusion of these terms. The question must be clarified as it reaches down to the very fundamentals of democracy and challenges government by law.

YELLOW DOG CONTRACT DENIES CIVIC RIGHTS

Washington, Nov. 20.—The promises an employe makes when he signs a "yellow dog" contract "are so broad as to invade the whole civic and social freedom of the worker in relation to conditions of work and not alone his use of a union to influence conditions of work," says the weekly bulletin of the National Catholic Welfare Council.

The church men point out that the contract even forbids workers from voting for protective legislation.

"The contract," it is stated, "forbids 'interference, coercion, intimidation or unpleasant attention from any source whatever' outside of the employer and the individual employe in the terms and conditions of work. It also obligates an employe to do nothing in any way against this. It, therefore, forbids not only union interference but also government interference, and the employe obligates himself to do nothing to get government intervention.

"The government, either the state or the national, as the case may be, regulates hours, safety, compensation for injury, etc. When it so regulates the terms and conditions of work, there is interference, coercion through sanctions the law establishes, intimidation even, and what might be termed unpleasant attention by the government. An employe signing such a contract breaks the terms of his contract when he votes for a protective labor law in a referendum, or when he votes for a man for the state legislature or the federal Congress who, it is understood, will try to secure such protective legislation."

GIRLS IN BUSINESS FACE HARDER TESTS

New York, Nov. 20.—Women and girls who enter the business world in the belief high salaried positions are easily obtained are certain to become disillusioned, according to Miss Helen Winne, head of the employment bureau of a branch Y. W. C. A. in this city.

There are fewer positions of this type available than women seeking employment commonly suppose, Miss Winne said. Office machinery and modern methods have sounded the doom of the woman or girl who is "willing to do anything," but is unable for nothing. The secretary that the modern business man demands is a very professional person.

It is always difficult for the older woman to get a job unless she specially qualifies for some responsible position requiring experience and mature judgment. Most employers set the absolute limit on age somewhere between 35 and 35.

BUSINESS MEN FAVOR MARKED PRISON LABOR

Tacoma, Wash., Nov. 20.—Business men of this state will support the prison labor bill, which provides for the labeling of prison-made articles when same are offered for public sale, Senator La Follette said, adding that the labor of prisoners can not be exploited, but this purpose is defeated by the importation of prison-made goods from other states. The legislative committee of the State Manufacturers' Association agrees that this practice is injurious and they will join with the State Federation of Labor in urging the passage of the placard act.

COAL STOCKS INCREASE

Washington, Nov. 20.—The amount of bituminous coal has increased in spite of extraordinary exports stimulated by the British coal strike, according to the Bureau of Mines.

On Nov. 1 commercial consumers and retail dealers had 44,000,000 tons on hand. This was 3,000,000 tons more than on July 1, indicating that production in August and September was sufficient to supply domestic consumption and provide a surplus for storage, in addition to the large amounts exported.

ANTI-UNIONIST FORCED IN LINE

New York, Nov. 20.—Wages of Delaware & Hudson Railroad shop men have been advanced 2 and 3 cents an hour. This road, together with the Pennsylvania, are leaders of the nation's antiunion transportation systems and provide a surplus for storage, in addition to the large amounts exported.

FORD'S FIVE-DAY WEEK

(From the New York World.)

When he announced his five-day week Henry Ford stated that wages would be advanced as the six-day basis as rapidly as increased production made this possible.

The workers would get six days' wages if they could turn out six days' standard production in five; otherwise they would get less. The value of the plan rests upon the ability of the workers to get a full week's wages under this system without overtaxing their strength. A recent statement by Edsel Ford shows a refreshingly rapid transition to the new wage and working basis.

It shows that Henry Ford was not "just talking" when he announced his new policy, some six weeks ago. The plan has cost him nothing; then men are paid only for what they produce and Ford makes no pretensions to philanthropy.

OIL LEASE CHARGES SHOW LAW'S DELAY

Washington, Nov. 20.—Two years and five months after they were indicted for criminal conspiracy in connection with naval oil leases, Edward L. Doheny, oil magnate, and Alfred B. Fall, Secretary of the Interior in the Harding cabinet, appeared for the first time in court and plead not guilty.

Fall was indicted in June, 1924. The following August the government filed an answer to his appeal that the indictment be quashed. In December of that year the government concluded that its answer was not sufficient and asked permission to withdraw same. In April, the next year, the indictment was set aside because the government permitted a clerk to be in the grand jury room when the votes were considered nine months before.

In May, 1925, the government secured a new indictment, thus placing itself in its original position after 12 months of delay.

The appeals and red tape during the 18 intervening months, and on November 10, 1926, Fall finally appeared in court for a few minutes and plead not guilty.

The criminal charge is connected with the transfer of $100,000 in the "little black satchel" from Doheny to Fall. The defense claims this transfer was a loan. The prosecution insists it was a bribe.

LA FOLLETTE WOULD CURB PRESIDENT'S NEW POWER

Madison, Wis., Nov. 20.—When Congress convenes Senator La Follette will propose a constitutional amendment that executive officials whose appointment must be confirmed by the senate shall not be removed by the president except by advice and consent of the senate.

The amendment would annul a recent decision by the United States Supreme Court, which holds that the president need not consult the senate in the removal of such officials.

"Every layman can plainly see," Senator La Follette said, "that the decision adds enormously to the president's political power and to his already undue and excessive control of patronage."

TOO MANY APPEALS AGAINST LABOR LAW

New York, Nov. 20.—Workers injured in industry should not be victimized by numerous appeals against compensation decisions, representatives of the State's Attorney General told the New York Industrial Survey Commission.

While abolition of the right of appeal was not favored, it was pointed out that these delays continue from six months to two years, while the injured worker has no income.

It was suggested that assessments against insurance companies that fail to win their point would prove effective.

AUTO STOCKHOLDERS GET JUICY PROFITS

New York, Nov. 20.—The General Motors Corporation continued its amazing record of profits by voting $34,000,000 to stockholders.

Profits for the last nine months total $149,217,264, as compared with $80,921,018 in the corresponding period of 1925.

In January an extra dividend of $5 a share was paid out of 1925 earnings. The following March the regular annual dividend was raised from $6 to $7. In July another extra dividend was paid, and on September 1 a stock dividend of 50 per cent was paid.

"PAY WAGES OR GO TO JAIL"

Long Beach, Cal., Nov. 20.—Judge Charles P. Cook of the Municipal Court has ruled that Felix Gillespie, an oil operator, must pay $2,634 back wages to employes or go to jail. Sentence was suspended for 30 days to permit Gillespie to comply with the court's decision.

The state prosecuted the case for these unorganized workers who are protected by an act placed on the statute books through trade union effort.

VARE-SMITH CHANCES IN SENATE ARE SLIM

Washington, Nov. 20.—Political observers predict that Senators-elect Vare of Pennsylvania and Smith of Illinois will not be seated by the senate.

Friends of Vare and Smith are raising the state's rights claim. They deny that the senate has jurisdiction and insist that only the state can act where improper election methods have been used. They refer to a recent decision by the United States Supreme Court which, they claim, weakens the senate's authority in cases such as these, and which was evidenced when Lorrimer of Illinois was seated several years ago.

The Vare contest promises to attract the most attention because of millions of dollars expended in the primary election by Vare forces and because of the sensational charges made in the election by William B. Wilson, Vare's opponent.

Exclusive of Philadelphia, Wilson was elected by 50,000 majority, but astonishing things happened in Philadelphia. In one group of voting districts Vare received 6,286 votes and Wilson received not one vote. Wilson was "saved" in 29 districts. Magistrator Norris, a leader of the Vare opposition, insists that this is prima facie evidence of fraudulent vote. He contends it is not enough merely to show ballot boxes containing this count. Conclusive evidence must be sought, he said, as to how the count was made.

Senator-elect Smith is charged with receiving money for his campaign from Samuel Insull, middle west traction king. Smith was a member of the Illinois Public Utilities Commission at the time.

UNIONS AID COLORED GIRLS

Chicago, Nov. 20.—The Federation of Labor and affiliated locals are aiding colored girls in their strike against the Marsa date and fig packing plant. They have been organized and are appealing for public support. In their appeal to clergymen they state that the piecework system permits a wage of only $8 to $14 a week and that conditions are humiliating.

"We are fighting for decent standards," the girls say. "Will you kindly advise colored women and girls not to take our places in this fight? Please help us win the fight which will lend new hope to the colored workers to form their own unions and maintain their self-respect."

BARBERS ORGANIZE

Indianapolis, Nov. 20.—The following charters have been issued by the Journeymen Barbers' International Union: Tampa, Texas; Corvallis, Oregon, and Neenah, Wis.

PASSAIC STRIKERS BREAK BOSSES' LINE

Passaic, N. J., Nov. 20.—After a 10-months' struggle textile workers have signed an agreement with the Passaic Worsted Spinning Company and broken the Hindenberg line of wage-reducing employers.

This is but one of the nine mills affected, and the strikers are hopeful relief will continue that terms may be secured from the other corporations. These include the Botany and the Forstmann-Huffman Company, the two most autocratic of the textile employers.

The agreement signed and ratified by both the union and the Passaic Worsted Spinning Company provides:

Right of workers to organize in a legitimate organization.

Collective bargaining.

Workers to continue employment during arbitration of any demand that both parties can not agree to.

No outside labor to be employed after date of settlement until all strikers are re-employed.

"This recognition of the union is of more value to the workers than all other considerations," said Thomas F. McMahon, president of the United Textile Workers.

The trade unionist reminded strikers, relief workers and labor organizations that the settlement involves only one mill employing approximately 600 workers and that the great body of strikers are still out.

"This is the beginning," Mr. McMahon said. "We must now work for other settlements."

BRITISH COAL MINERS BOW TO BRUTAL POWER

London, England, Nov. 20.—With the approach of winter and increased hunger, a delegate conference of miners voted to return to the pits under harder conditions than when locked out nearly six months ago. The vote was 432,000 to 352,000. The decision will be passed upon by the miners' general membership.

The miners lose their seven-hour day. Last July the government amended the seven-hour mining law to permit individual agreements between mine companies and employes. The eight-hour day will now become general. District agreements will supplant a national agreement, which the miners fought for. Wages may be revised downward and a government arbitration tribunal will be set up by the government to operate for six months.

No reference is made to the recommendations of two coal commissions, which the miners insisted should be acted upon. The last commission—headed by Sir Herbert Samuel—protested against increased hours.

The possible end of the lockout has contributed nothing to an adjustment of the intricate coal industry, while more onerous conditions are forced on labor. Outside of die-hard government officials and coal owners, the situation is considered impossible.

HEALTH ORDINANCE VOID

Seattle, Nov. 20.—Judge Frater has ruled that the city health ordinance, requi ting the closing of meat markets and in spection of meats, is unconstitutional.

ROCKEFELLER'S GENEROSITY

(From the Seamen Journal.)

Mr. John D. Rockefeller, jr., has donated a quarter of a million dollars to the building program of the Seamen's Church Institute, New York City.

The Seamen's Church Institute is a charitable concern which attempts to mix religion with doles, consisting of free meals and beds for the needy.

It is always embarrassing to say unkind things about sweet charity, but it is a fact, nevertheless, that while giving millions to the poor laboring people of America millionaires have consistently refused to get off the backs of said "laboring people."

Ill will against the Rockefeller family is builded on oil, and principally Standard Oil. The different Standard Oil companies own many tank ships and these tankers employ seamen of all grades. Very few of these seamen are paid a living wage. Only the licensed officers receive a wage sufficient to enable them to marry and maintain a family. A number of Standard Oil ships flying the American flag are manned almost exclusively by Asiatics. These Asiatics have a low standard of living and they can work for lower wages. They are more docile than white men—they will submit to conditions that would cause instant resentment by American seamen.

Mr. Rockefeller is one of the heavy contributors to